UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.237/20
5 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Fifth session, second part
New York, 30 April-8 May 1992
Agenda item 4

REVIEW OF EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. By its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, paragraph 10, the General Assembly decided to establish "a special voluntary fund, administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to ensure that developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, as well as small island developing countries, are able to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process". Governments, regional economic integration organizations and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, in particular UNDP, UNEP and WMO, have been called upon by the Assembly and/or the Committee to contribute generously to the special voluntary fund.

2. The present report consolidates and brings up to date information provided in previous reports on the subject (A/AC.237/8 and Corr.1, 11 and Corr.1, 14 and 17).

3. The current state of pledges and receipts for the special voluntary fund is shown in table 1.A. The total sum available through the fund is approximately US$ 1.9 million. Table 1.B shows other contributions that have been made to support the participation of developing countries, to the secretariat or in consultation with it. The total of the contributions shown in the two tables is of the order of US$ 2.3 million.

4. The special voluntary fund, supplemented by the contributions shown in table 1.B, has enabled the secretariat to offer financing for the participation of one delegate from each of some 100 countries in the sessions of the Committee other than the first session. Countries receiving such offers have included all the least developed countries and other developing countries having a GDP per head of US$ 1,800 or less in 1988. These arrangements have covered most of the small island developing countries. In addition, assistance has been offered to some other countries providing elected officers to the Committee and its working groups, as well as to a few regional organizations with expertise related to climate change.

5. The Japanese contribution of US$ 200,000 has been earmarked to finance travel to and participation in pre-session seminars and training activities held before the second, third and fourth sessions and the second part of the fifth session. This money is being made available from the Japanese Trust Fund for International Cooperation and Development.

6. UNDP has contributed an estimated US$ 100,000, coming predominantly from the resources of the fifth cycle, for the participation in the second part of the fifth session of one delegate from each of 20 developing countries selected by it. Representatives from those countries participating in the pre-session training seminar also had those costs covered by UNDP.

7. The contributions from Japan, UNDP and the Commission of the European Communities shown in table 1.B, while not passing through the special voluntary fund, are nevertheless intended to cover costs that would otherwise have to be borne by that fund. They may therefore be considered as if they had been contributed to the fund.

8. When asked about the possibility of UNEP contributing to the special voluntary fund, the Executive Director of UNEP advised the Executive Secretary that, in cases where delays in payments of pledged contributions impaired the capacity of the fund, he would consider favourably requests for temporary financing from the Environment Fund to help cover such shortfalls until receipts of contributions to the fund permitted the loan to be reimbursed. Fortunately, such a situation has not arisen.

9. The estimated commitments from the special voluntary fund for financing participation in the Committee's sessions, including provision for programme support costs at 13 per cent, amount to US$ 2.1 million. Once all payments in the pipeline are credited to the fund and all charges are settled, there is expected to be a positive balance.

10. It may also be noted in this connection that the Government of Switzerland has recently contributed approximately US$ 50,000 to the secretariat to support the participation of delegates from certain countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the work of the Committee. The contribution enabled assistance to be offered for participation by those countries in the second part of the fifth session of the Committee.

11. As regards bilateral funding for participation, the secretariat has been informed of the following arrangements to support participation by Pacific island developing countries in the Committee. Australia has made available $A 108,257 (approximately US$ 82,600) through the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). New Zealand has provided a total of $NZ 166,656 (approximately US$ 91,500) over two financial years (1991/92 and 1992/93), partly bilaterally and partly through SPREP. The New Zealand funding has also enabled the participation of SPREP itself in the Committee.

II. TRUST FUND FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS

12. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/212, paragraph 20, decided "that the negotiating process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations". It also invited "WMO and the UNEP and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including those in the field of development, to make appropriate contributions to the negotiating process, including its funding"; Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations were similarly invited "to contribute generously to the fund" (paras. 21 and 22).

13. As shown in table 2, finance for the trust fund now totals approximately US$ 120,000. The supplementary contribution from the Commission of the European Communities will increase extrabudgetary funding of secretariat expenses to US$ 180,000.

14. The INC secretariat has viewed this fund as a means of defraying, in the first half of 1992, expenses other than staff costs that cannot be covered by current provisions in the United Nations programme budget. In addition, the fund could provide some margin of manoeuvre for the secretariat, if needed, in the second half of the year. So far, the main drawing on the fund has been to cover costs incurred for staff travel to New York for the second part of the fifth session and to provide for staff travel to Rio de Janeiro for the signature of the convention at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. This was necessary because of the insufficient provision for staff travel costs in the regular budget. Other costs that may need to be covered from the fund include costs related to telecommunications, supplies and public information activities.

15. The INC secretariat continues to be administered through arrangements with the UNCTAD secretariat authorized by the United Nations controller. The secretariat has been provided with office accommodation on United Nations premises at Geneva, at no cost.

16. Support for the staffing of the secretariat has been provided by UNEP and WMO, as follows: UNEP has assigned a legal adviser at the P-4 level and has provided funding for temporary assistance to cover a D-1 post for three months and secretarial assistance. WMO has assigned a senior scientific officer at the D-1 level and two General Service staff.

17. In addition, Governments have provided bilateral funding for posts in the secretariat as follows: Canada has financed a communications and media officer (L-4 level) for one year; France a scientific assistant (L-2 level) for two years; Sweden and Norway a legal assistant (L-2 level) for two years. The selection of the incumbent of the latter post was left to the discretion of the secretariat so that it might be filled by a national of a developing country.

Table 1

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Status of contributions as of 30 April 1992 1/

A. Contributions to special voluntary fund

(General Assembly resolution 45/212, para. 10)

Contributor	Pledge (outstanding)	Receipt (or in pipeline) 2/
Austria (x2)		US$ 40 000 8 August 1991 US$ 25 000 28 August 1991
Canada (x2)		US$ 30 085.16 29 March 1991 (US$ 84 000)
Denmark (x2)		US$ 100 000 23 April 1991 US$ 50 000 4 March 1992
Finland		US$ 104 866.77 20 March 1991
France (x4)	FF 300 000 (US$ 54 000)	US$ 34 782.61 16 April 1991 US$ 36 413.29 25 November 1991 US$ 18 065.21 27 January 1992
Germany (x3)		US$ 100 000 27 August 1991 (US$ 30 000) (US$ 130 000)
Ireland		US$ 10 000 3 July 1991
Netherlands		US$ 150 000 12 September 1991

/...

Table 1 (continued)

Contributor	Pledge (outstanding)	Receipt (or in pipeline) 2/
Norway (x2)		US$ 50 000 23 March 1991 US$ 31 048.14 27 November 1991
Spain (x3)	PTAS 5 000 000 (US$ 48 000)	US$ 54 644.80 15 April 1991 US$ 19 612.84 3 January 1992
Sweden (x2)		US$ 86 058.51 14 March 1991 US$ 85 873.76 19 February 1992
Switzerland 3/		US$ 210 896.31 10 April 1991
Turkey		US$ 3 000 5 April 1991
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (x3)		US$ 43 312.50 4 April 1991 US$ 50 682 10 September 1991 (US$ 53 000)
United States of America (x2)		US$ 50 000 18 June 1991 US$ 100 000
World Meteorological Organization		(US$ 33 000)
Total finance through special voluntary fund (approximate)		US$ 1 915 000

Table 1 (continued)

B. Other contributions made to or in consultation with the secretariat

Contributor	Pledge (outstanding)	Receipt (or in pipeline) 2/
Japan		US$ 200 000 4/
Commission of the European Communities	ECU 50 000 (US$ 60 000)	(US$ 60 000) 5/
United Nations Development Programme		(US$ 100 000) 6/
Total (approximate)	US$ 60 000	US$ 360 000

1/ Figures in brackets are approximate equivalents in United States dollars.

2/ Where the date of receipt is not given, payment has been reported but the secretariat has not yet received confirmation from United Nations Headquarters that the amount has been credited to the fund.

3/ See also para. 10 above.

4/ Contributions being paid from the Trust Fund for International Cooperation for Development (see para. 5 above).

5/ Being paid through UNEP.

6/ Offered to 20 selected countries (see para. 6 above).

Table 2

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS

Status of contributions as of 30 April 1992 1/

A. Contributions to Trust Fund

(General Assembly resolution 45/212, para. 20)

Contributor	Pledge (outstanding)	Receipt (or in pipeline) 2/
France		US$ 18 065.21 27 January 1992
Norway		(US$ 15 000)
Switzerland		US$ 34 734 5 February 1992
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		US$ 52 629.53
Total (approximate)		US$ 120 000

B. Other contribution

Commission of the European Communities		(US$ 60 000) 3/

1/ Figures in brackets are approximate equivalents in United States dollars.

2/ Where the date of receipt is not given, payment has been reported but the secretariat has not yet received confirmation from United Nations Headquarters that the amount has been credited to the fund.

3/ Being paid through UNEP.